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Local Brevities.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS.

All property owners of the city of Astoria are urgently requested to assemble at the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday night, February 23, at the hour of 7:30 p. m., for the purpose of considering the matter of the construction of a sea wall along the city front. This matter is of the utmost importance and the fullest possible expression is desired from property owners.

J. W. WELCH, Pres.

Sheriff Livville returned last night from Salem, where he placed Charles Belmont in the penitentiary.

County Clerk Clinton yesterday granted a marriage license to Charles Pakanen and Katharina Sophia Koskela.

A gold breast pin was lost yesterday afternoon on Franklin avenue between Eighth and Sixteenth streets.

Finder please return same to this office.

Owing to press of business, the district attorney was yesterday unable to take up the case against Tom Howard, accused of robbery. Mr. Allen said he would investigate the charge today.

Up to the close of business last night more than 500 receipts had been issued to taxpayers from the sheriff's office. Many taxpayers are taking advantage of the 3 per cent rebate allowed to persons making settlement before March 15.

The saw mill being built by Messrs. Colwell, Rogers, Wood and Heath in Ilwaco is nearing completion and is expected to be in operation by the middle of March. Its entire output of lumber will be used in the building operations on the north beach and in Ilwaco.

R. Lindenberg is now offering 7 cents a pound for Chinook salmon,

which are reported to be very scarce. Mr. Lindenberg is anxious to pickle a carload of fish for shipment to the German markets. Fishing is not being extensively engaged in as yet, although the market is fairly well supplied.

Investigation of the charges preferred against Louis Cordes will be made by the committee on fire and water this evening. The committee will meet at the city hall, and, as such meetings must be open, the interested parties will all be present. Mr. Cordes must answer one specification of neglect of duty and three of incompetence.

The case of James Flynn vs. the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Company was the only action called before Judge McBride yesterday. This action came up on a motion to strike out parts of the complaint. The motion was argued and submitted. The time of Judge McBride will be fully occupied next week, when several jury cases will come on to be heard.

Quarantine Officer Earle yesterday filed complaint with Auditor Anderson relative to the alleged blocking of streets along the water front. The complaint recites that cars left standing on the track prove a great annoyance to the officer in the performance of his official duties. In the absence of Mayor Suprenant the complaint was turned over to City Attorney Smith, who will introduce the matter at the meeting of the council next Wednesday evening.

According to last night's Journal, the engineer department has discovered that the depth at the river's mouth is now but 21 feet. The statement is made that the depth was one foot greater eight months ago. Eight months ago the north channel was open and since that time the north channel closed up and the south channel opened. Pilots have all along declared the depth was fully 24 feet. It is probable the announcement will provoke much discussion.

Opinion varies as to whether or not Astoria's crushed rock streets have been successful. It is said that some of the streets have been very poorly built, with the result that they are little better than mud holes. This is due to the failure of the contractors to lay a sufficient quantity of rock. It is quite probable that better pavement will hereafter be used to improve those streets on solid ground, and the move for cement walks is regarded as a long step in that direction.

Master Fish Warden Van Dusen, who has lately returned from a visit to Yaquina hatchery, reports that the operations of the plant are exceedingly gratifying to the department. The hatchery is a new one, but the large number of eggs that have been hatched and the rapid growth of the little fish soon to be turned out to hustle for themselves, all point to the development of the Yaquina district as a salmon packing center, and the future commercial importance of the river is predicted.

A new wharf is to be built at Fort Stevens to assist in the work of receiving rock there for the jetty extension. The new wharf will be built below the present pier and will be so constructed as to enable barges to head up stream and discharge from both sides at the same time. In view of the fact that the rock has heretofore been delivered by rail, the construction of the new wharf indicates that the engineers contemplate receiving stone from companies that will use barges to transport it.

The weather was fine yesterday up to 2 p. m. when a southwest blow came up that caused a suspension of shipping operations. The tug Wallula had gone outside and picked up the schooner W. F. Garms, from San Francisco to Astoria, and started to tow her into port. About the time the tow was started the southwest blow came on, and, with the ebb tide, compelled the tug to drop the schooner, which put back to sea. The wind increased in velocity and the indications last night were that a storm would prevail for some hours to come.

Through the kindness of District Attorney Allen, Charles Jackson (colored) was permitted yesterday to plead guilty to a charge of simple assault before Justice Goodman. Jackson had been arrested the previous day for assault with a dangerous weapon. It was said of the man that he had also insulted the American flag. Mr. Allen investigated the case and learned that the alleged assault was not so grave an offense as had been reported to him. Jackson had displayed a knife, but it was a small one, and he had made no real attempt to use it. The district attorney considered the offense too in-

consequential to require the man to face a charge of felony and so permitted him to enter a plea of guilty to simple assault. He was fined \$12.

There is much dissatisfaction with the harbor lines in front of the city, and the government engineers will be asked to make a thorough revision. The lines were established many years ago, before the Snag Island Jetty had ruined Astoria harbor, and there has been no change except in the east end since that time. The result is that there is very poor depth at many important points. It is learned that an Astorian who is anxious to build a large wharf has been trying to buy 300 feet of frontage that would afford good depth. He secured an option of property between the co-operative cannery and the Tallant-Grant cannery, but the best depth to be found there was 19 1-2 feet. Afterwards he offered \$25,000 for frontage near the O. R. & N. wharf, but the offer was refused the owner demanding \$30,000. The harbor lines should be extended in many places, for with their present location the commercial interests of the city are shut off from deep water.

Superintendent Dorsey B. Smith, of the O. R. & N. Co., is making a modern railroad out of the north beach narrow gauge, which once enjoyed the distinction of being operated without the formality of a time schedule. The rolling stock of the road has lately been fitted with automatic couplers and air brakes, contributing much to its safety and convenience. Six thousand new ties are being placed in the road bed and the coaches and engines are being overhauled, painted and put in order for heavy traffic during the coming season. Mr. Smith hopes to be able to perfect plans for a summer service between the north and south beaches which will make intercourse between the rival resorts far more easy than in the past. The genial superintendent thinks that there should not be so much jealousy between the habitues or proprietors of the Oregon and Washington resorts, and that, if convenient transportation facilities were afforded, most people would visit both beaches before leaving the coast and an interchange of friendly feeling would be conducive to more pleasant relations as well as to increased business.

President James W. Welch, of the Chamber of Commerce, has wired on behalf of the chamber to the Oregon delegation in both branches of congress, urging the members to use their influence looking to the passage of the Lewis and Clark fair appropriation bill in the house. The chamber had received a telegram from Henry E. Reed, secretary of the Lewis and Clark fair corporation, urging the aid of the local body, and in accordance with this request Mr. Welch promptly wired the senators, representatives and Hon. James A. Twaney, chairman of the house committee on expositions. The telegram to the delegation follows: "We urgently ask you to do all in your power for passage of senate bill through house appropriating \$1,775,000 for aid to Lewis and Clark exposition with amendments as to details deemed advisable. The exposition should be helped, as it represents the acquisition of much territory from which many states were formed." This communication was, in substance, duplicated to the chairman of the committee. Similar action is being taken by the commercial bodies throughout the northwest, and the strong pressure brought to bear upon congress leaves no doubt but that the final passage of the bill is certain.

The scheme for financing the sea wall proposal is one that will cause much interest in the city. It is proposed that the property benefited be bonded to secure payment of the improvement. Each lot in the improved district would thus be pledged, the mortgages to be taken up by a security company, which, in turn, would issue bonds to the amount of the work. The bonds would bear interest and mature 10 years after the date of their issuance. It is reasoned that the seawall would so enhance property in 10 years as to more than pay for the work. Some of the cost might be defrayed by popular contribution, as was done at Seattle. The entire matter is to be discussed at the meeting to be held Tuesday night, when steps will be taken to sound sentiment among all of the property owners interested. Those who decline to take up with the proposal might be brought to terms by excluding their property from the benefit of the sea wall. Such action would ruin the property, and it could, in time, be condemned by the city council, as was done at South Bend when the mossbacks sought to prevent the building of the sea wall there. If last night's meeting can be taken as a criterion, there will be genuine enthusiasm in the matter now under way, and little opposition to the scheme proposed. It is expected that

all of the leading property owners will be out Tuesday night to attend the big meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

INSURANCE LOSS REPORTED.

Experts Believe That Total Will Not Exceed \$35,000,000.

Baltimore, Feb. 18.—Insurance experts are confident that the loss caused by the conflagration, will not exceed \$40,000,000, and it will not be under \$32,000,000. The loss of companies in New York are reported officially by them to the insurance commissioner of New York at Albany, which includes 68 of the largest American and foreign companies, report the total losses suffered by them to be a little over \$14,000,000. Taking these figures as a basis and adding the approximated figures of Maryland companies, insurance men say they can not see how the total insurance loss will exceed \$35,000,000.

Nearly Forfeits His Life.

A 70-year old man almost ending fatally started a horrible ulcer on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. For four years it defied all doctors and all remedies. But Bucklin's Arnica Salve had no trouble to cure him. Equally good for burns, bruises, skin eruptions and piles. 25c. at Charles Roxers' drug store.

Private lessons in telegraphy. Room 10, Main Street House.

Chile con carne, prepared by experts at the Imperial Cafe. Try it; you'll be pleased.

Piano lessons by experienced German teacher. Prof. Kari H. Manderer room 10, Main Street House.

Coughs and colds, down to the very borderland of consumption, yield to the soothing healing influences of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.

Laughing Water, Bedelia, Pretty Little Dinah Jones, Just Kiss Yourself Goodbye, Oh, Didn't He Ramble, and 100 other popular songs, with music, postpaid for 10c. Address, Albert Brooks, 2146 Fifth avenue, N. Y.

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120 acres of good farm land on Tucker creek, about 8 miles from Astoria. Has house, barn and out buildings; 8 cattle, 2 horses, chickens, etc. Terms reasonable. Would like to lease for a term of years to responsible party. For particulars apply to Alex. Palo, 241 Taylor avenue, Astoria, Ore.

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We have just received a new assortment of well made and stylish

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Which is the nicest line of its kind ever shown in Astoria.

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